

Salvation

Text; Romans 10:13

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Our modern day society is rather unique in many ways. One of these ways is the current giveaway craze which has swept the country. We are living in an era in which people are continually trying to win a prize. Almost any kind of business today is having some sort of contest or giving something away so as to lure more customers to its place of business. We can't sit down to breakfast without being confronted with a cereal box on the back of which is a contest giving away 10,000 dollars and a new car for the grand prize. At least this is the cereal I had this week. All that is required is to send your name on a card or solve a simple problem a child could solve. Or you go to a super market and when you check out the cashier gives you a bingo card or some other card which you fill in with stickers or stamps until it is either a winner of money or stamps. You drive into a gas station and when you pay for the gas you get a card and hope that the next time you stop you get the other half that matches it and win a prize. Twenty five years ago you had to complete a sentence in 25 words or less why I like rice, silver dust or duz or some other soap for my wash because. But we have become more sophisticated with these giveaways. It has become such big business that it is almost a science. But all of these contests have brought out one thing. That is that almost everyone wants something for nothing. So since the Church is part of our modern day society it too has hopped on the bandwagon and is having a giveaway program. Each one of you here this morning has won a free prize. It's absolutely free with no strings attached. It has been given out for approximately 2000 years now. The prize is salvation. Many people refuse it for several reasons. The main one being the fact that you can't see it, or hold it in your hand, or drive it down the street, or spend it. It's rather mysterious and therefore many people steer clear of it because quite frankly they simply do not understand it.

The people of the early Church didn't understand it either. The

Apostle Paul tried to explain it to them and had a very difficult time while trying to explain it.

Most of us have either had the personal experience or have heard of the old time preachers who would shout from the pulpit, "Brother are you saved?" Or these preachers would meet people on the street and stop them to ask, "Brother are you saved?" However humorous this may seem to us we should remember that these men were concerned for the souls of their fellowman. Because of the sort of ridiculous way this was sometimes handled, many preachers have refrained from preaching about salvation for fear that they will be labeled as one of these Bible thumping Evangelists. As a result we don't hear too much about salvation as such. So at the risk of being placed in this category, I would like to speak to you about salvation. ~~I have two reasons for doing this. The first and least important is the fact that this sermon will be turned in as one of my assignments for the Lay School next week. The second and most important is that the whole area or idea of salvation was brought to my mind by a member of one of our two congregations here.~~ I recently visited a shut in and to be quite truthful it is probably just a matter of time for this man. But the fellow I mentioned before, approached me and suggested that perhaps I should visit this gentleman again and see if he has made his peace with God. I am still amazed at this. Being concerned with the souls of others is expected of me and the clergy, but to have a regular Church member show this deep concern is utterly amazing. However I do feel that many others are also concerned and are showing this concern in such a way that it cannot be seen. In either case this ^{is} what we all should be doing and that is showing concern for the souls of others.

But before we go any further we should probably define what we mean by salvation. Salvation means to be saved. But in order to be saved we must be saved from something, such as drowning, fire, flood and so on. This is the root of the whole idea of salvation. We are saved from our sins by the death of Jesus Christ. Our salvation was bought and paid for by Calvary's cross;

This is our free gift. There is nothing we ourselves can do to attain this gift. The only requirement is that we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and saviour. But this gift does not give us the licence to live as we want to, and say that no matter what we do we have a place reserved for us in heaven. Our place is reserved for us all right, but we must try to live the life that is required of us. Right here is where we could become involved in a Theological argument with some segments of our Protestant religion. We probably all know that the Presbyterians believe in the Doctrine of Predestination. But did you also know that some of them go so far as to say that there are some people who are born good and regardless what they do in life they will die good. and by the same reasoning there are those who are born evil and regardless of what they may do to overcome it they are predestined to die evil. I for one cannot buy this theory. I can go along with some of this predestination but I cannot believe this. Our lives can be likened to taking a train ride. Salvation is our ticket to board this train. As we start on our journey we encounter many stops. At each one of these stations we can choose to get off at any or all of them. The choice is ours. We come to little towns ^{& VILLAGES} called hatred, greed, lust, envy, undisciplined lives and so on. If we choose to leave the train at one of these stops we cannot reach our destination. However if we change our minds before the train pulls out again we can continue our journey. So you see here again we express our freedom of choice. It's possible our lives may be predestined, but we have the choice of accepting good or evil.

I saw a movie on television one night about a sailor who was concerned with what he called his, "immortal soul." The man who played the part was the late Thomas Mitchell. I think most of us can remember him as the grey haired, grizzled old Irishman who could play roles such as this so convincingly. In the picture he plays the part of a typical sailor. By typical I mean the kind of men sailors are depicted as being. Every time the ship reaches a port he along with the rest of the crew proceed to the nearest bar and in a short time are engaged in brawls, riots and what not.

But after each episode he is concerned with his immortal soul. He asks different people about it and what would happen if he died in one of those drunken brawls. Finally at the end he does something heroic and sacrifices his life to save someone else and the captain pronounces that probably his immortal soul had been saved. The moral of this story is that, this soul which each of us possesses is and was meant for salvation. But we cannot live just as we please and expect to keep this most precious gift. The gift itself is free but it demands that we try our very best to live as God would have us live.

There is another point to be said about salvation and that is the fact that salvation was not meant for one group of people. The Jews before Christ believed that God had granted them the gift of salvation. Which He did as long as they remained true to Him. But by the simple fact that they were God's chosen people did not give them the liberty to do whatever they wanted to, and act how they wanted to and still expect to have salvation. Yet this is exactly what they did. They were so certain that they were God's elect that they could do no wrong. Even after the ministry of Jesus they went around trying to downgrade Christianity because they believed that they were still the perfect people of God. They disbelieved that God had sent the Messiah in Christ and that Christ was an impostor. This is what Paul was trying to counteract in his letter to the Romans. He told them, look this salvation is not just for Jew or Gentile or Greek, it's for everyone. It belongs to you and I as well. We heard in our Scripture part of Paul's argument to these people. In trying to tell them about salvation he goes on to explain that they must accept Jesus and they will be saved. This applies to us in our present day. If we accept Jesus Christ we not only receive salvation but we belong to Him. We become His disciples. Therefore we must try to live the Christian life. When we accept Jesus to our lives we accept all of Him and what He stands for. Not just a part or a portion, but all. Then by the same token, if we accept Him and do not try to live and do as He wants us to, then we are damning ourselves by refusing to

St. John Emerton 9:30 2/18/68

*Processional Hymn 252
*Call to Worship Page 138
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Sel. 45 Page 594
Hymn 273
Scripture Romans 10;1-13, Phil. 2;1-12

*Gloria Patri
*Apostle's Creed
*Prayer & Response
Anthem
Announcement
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER MARCH 1ST
REV. HIAK NEXT WEEK

Offering & Prayer
*Hymn 192
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 80
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
*Postlude

Salem Lemertine 11:00 2/18/68

*Processional Hymn /
*Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture Romans 10;1-13 Phil. 2;1-12
*Gloria Patri
*Apostle's Creed
*Prayer
Anthem
Announcement

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER MARCH 1ST.
REV. HIAK NEXT SUN.
VISITING GENE NEELY.
FEB 24TH - 1ST MID. WK LENTEN SER.
YOUTH FELLO. 6:30 7:30.

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 286
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 76
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
*Postlude